

Next Meeting: February 2, 2005
10:00 a.m. – Thorburn Center – Ingham ISD (Rooms B and C)

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of January 5, 2005 Meeting
10:00 a.m.

Present: Cindy Anderson, Kathleen Clegg, Patt Clement, Janice Fialka, Elaine High, Ric Hogerheide, Jill Jacobs, Patricia Keller, Dara Knill, Paul Kubicek, Jerry Oermann, Dodie Raycraft, Anne Richardson, Chuck Saur, Steve Schwartz, Deb Todd, Randall VanGasse, Julie Winkelstern
Ex-Officio Members: Mark Larson, Lee Martin, Doug Nurenberg (for Sheri Falvay), Rosanne Renauer, Jacquelyn Thompson

Absent: Gloria Anderson, Pansy Coleman, Cheryl Ervin, Darlene Heard-Thomas, Jim Kubaiko, Michele Robinson, Debs Roush, Julie Shore, Jeff Siegel, Larry Simpson, Colette Ward, Ann Yurcek

OSE/EIS Staff: David Brock, Fran Loose, Patti Oates-Ulrich

Guests: Karen Fillez, Amy Johnson, Beth Kennedy, Maggie Kolk, Sandi Laham, Candice Miller, Karen Rockhold, Jon Wurdock

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Patt Clement.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Introduction of Guests

Guests attending the meeting were introduced.

Amend/Approve Proposed Agenda

The agenda of the January 5, 2005 meeting was considered. The summary of public comment on the rules and procedures for approval of transition coordinators is not ready and is therefore postponed to February. The SEAC bylaws action item will be an information item instead. Ric Hogerheide moved, seconded by Paul Kubicek, to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried.

Amend/Approve Minutes

The minutes of the December 1, 2004 meeting were considered. Elaine High moved, seconded by Ric Hogerheide, to approve the minutes as written. The motion carried.

Public Comment

None

Member Issues

Kathleen Clegg mentioned an update put out by the Office of Career and Technical Preparation in the Department of Labor and Economic Growth concerning Career and Technical Education Programs. Cindy Anderson clarified that a lot of questions are being raised with regard to accommodations, modifications, and modifying expectations and standards for students with disabilities, because the document conflictingly states that accommodations are appropriate, but modification of expectations is not required. Kathleen said that she is receiving questions and is not certain how to handle them. Discussion followed. Jacquelyn suggested sending the issue to the Secondary Transition Subcommittee for discussion. The subcommittee will report back to the committee of the whole.

Jerry Oermann raised the question that the SEAC bylaws provide no direction on how changing an organization's name or structure would affect representation on the SEAC. Patt assured Jerry that the SEAC bylaws will be discussed later in the meeting.

Steve Schwartz updated the group regarding the transfer of support staff to ISDs as discussed in last month's meeting. Steve was assured by their lobbyist that the loophole was closed by the Governor. Paul Kubicek mentioned that he heard one of the outcomes of the legislation negatively affects dual employment workers and asked for confirmation from Jacquelyn Thompson. Jacquelyn said someone more familiar with the legislation would have to be found to address the question.

Patt announced that she must leave early today to attend a meeting and Vice Chairperson Ric Hogerheide will take over as chair at that time.

Chairperson's Report – Patt Clement

A. Nomination of 2005-06 executive committee

Patt Clement briefly explained the responsibilities of the executive committee and instructed people who are interested in being nominated to submit their names to the chair of their subcommittee to be forwarded to Amanda.

State Reports – Jacquelyn Thompson

A. State Board of Education

David Brock reported that two ISD plans, Dickenson-Iron and Branch, were approved in December. At the January meeting, both the Statement of Vision and Principles for Universal Education and Recommendations for the Impact of No Child Left Behind for Students with Disabilities will be presented to the Board of Education.

The document developed by the Seclusion and Restraint Referent Group will go through a 60-day field review process and presented to the Board afterward. Jacquelyn mentioned that the field review is an opportunity for the SEAC School Age Subcommittee to draft the SEAC's comment for consideration. When the document is ready, it will be distributed on the SEAC listserv.

B. Department of Education

Fran Loose referenced the handout distributed at today's meeting entitled *Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004: State Advisory Panel*. She walked the group through the handout, outlining how the new legislation will affect the membership of the SEAC by requiring additional voices and setting a definition that a parent must have a child with disabilities 26 years of age or younger in order to count as a defined member.

David Brock updated the group on the new IDEA legislation. The Department of Education has not received any guidance from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) with regard to providing technical assistance to states on implementation. Such guidance must be provided by the Secretary of Education within one year of the date of signing. In the meantime, the Department has been going through the law internally. The highly qualified teacher issue is a current focus as it is effective immediately. There is a chart available from Teacher Certification that is the current Department of Education position on how teachers may meet the highly qualified standards. The law itself did not seem to change the position taken earlier on the chart. New fiscal opportunities exist under the new IDEA, such as using 15% of the flow-through money for early intervening services focusing on grades K-3. Discussion followed. Data collection requirements are being examined. The State IEP form and manual will be updated soon so that it is in compliance with the new federal law. If any SEAC members are interested in helping to develop that form and manual, they may volunteer.

Karen Rockhold presented a basic orientation on the Part B Annual Performance Report. The importance of this report has increased over time. The APR is due on March 31st. The general format of the report is various required cluster areas containing at least one probe within each. Karen outlined each cluster area and the probe(s) within them. A handout was provided to the group containing this information. The APR describes what the Department of Education is accountable for and demonstrates progress and system performance. The 2002-03 APR is on the state website for public access. In response to

a question raised by Steve Schwartz, Karen explained that OSEP promised to provide feedback within three months of receipt of the APR; however, Michigan has not been one of the states to receive such feedback. It is hoped that feedback will be received in the future. Chuck Saur asked with regard to transition if anything is being done to communicate to local individuals who should have ownership of actions that would lead to change in data plans. Karen explained that the Department has concentrated on getting data into the system correctly and then distributing it to the directors. Eventually, the conversations will branch out. Discussion followed.

Information Items

A. SEAC Bylaws

Elaine High stated that no feedback was received with regard to the revised bylaws. She walked the group through the document, pointing out each change and giving the group an opportunity to provide input. Randy VanGasse suggested one missing procedure be rewritten to reflect Robert's Rules of Order and the newly complete bylaws presented as an action item in February. Anne Richardson noted that the procedures and guidelines will need to be updated to reflect the changes made to the bylaws. The bylaws ad hoc committee will reconvene to address the concerns of the committee of the whole and present a final revision for approval in February.

Action Items

A. Summary of public comment on changes to school social work approval

Steve Schwartz moved, seconded by Jerry Oermann, that SEAC recommend the School Social Worker Approval Process document. The motion carried.

B. IEP addendum and manual

Ric explained that the General Supervision Subcommittee reviewed the document and came up with three recommendations for change as outlined in the recommendation form. Janice Fialka requested the phrase "and student" be added following the word "parental" in number two. It was agreed upon. Anne Richardson moved, seconded by Paul Kubicek, that the SEAC endorse the adoption of the December 1, 2004 IEP Addendum and Manual Insertion with recommended changes.

Ex-Officio Reports

Institutions of Higher Education – Mark Larson – None

Michigan Department of Community Health – Doug Nurenberg – None

Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth/Rehabilitation Services – Rosanne Renauer – None

Family Independence Agency – Lee Martin – None

Michigan Department of Corrections – Michele Robinson – None

Committee Reports

A. General Supervision – Ric Hogerheide

The subcommittee drafted the recommendation on the IEP addendum that was approved earlier at this meeting. The group also brainstormed concerns to forward to the soon-to-be formed parent referent group.

B. School Age – Steve Schwartz

Steve explained that the subcommittee is interested in determining how far the reach of influence of SEAC members extends. Today's activity is a pilot for the development of an affiliation grid so a final product can be developed accurately at the 2005 fall retreat when the complete information would be timely and useful. He clarified that the interest of the subcommittee is not simply in what organizations SEAC members belong to, but those which they have an active role in. Directions for reporting affiliations were given. Discussion followed.

C. Secondary Transition – Cindy Anderson

Cindy Anderson said that Beth Steenwyk reported to the subcommittee at the December meeting on the progress of the implementation of the strategic directives generated by the Secondary Transition Design for Results team. The group also examined possible ways to forge connections with two other existing work groups that are influencing transition in the state, Michigan Transition Services Association and the Transition Network Team. Today they will identify an action plan related to barriers to transition including transportation, expansion of Medicaid eligibility, and changes to school funding. In addition, they will address the Career and Technical Education interfaces to report back to the committee of the whole as assigned earlier in this meeting.

Member Announcements

Jill Jacobs reminded the group that Michigan Association of Nonpublic Schools has a parent advocacy group for parents of students with disabilities in nonpublic schools. If anyone is interested, they may contact her for additional information.

Chuck Saur mentioned that the Michigan Transition Services Association Conference will be held March 16-18 in Frankenmuth. Interested parties may register at www.michigantsa.org.

Future Agenda Consideration

None

Paul Kubicek moved, seconded by Kathleen Clegg, to adjourn. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned to subcommittee meetings.

Amanda Whitehead
Recording Secretary

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Executive Committee
Minutes of January 5, 2005 Meeting
8:45 a.m.

Present: David Brock, Patt Clement, Karen Fillez, Elaine High, Ric Hogerheide, Sandi Laham, Fran Loose, Patti Oates-Ulrich, Steve Schwartz, Jacquelyn Thompson

Absent: Debs Roush, Larry Simpson, Collette Ward

Review of Today's Agenda

Patt Clement will announce that anyone interested in serving on the executive committee for 2005-06 may self-nominate.

Karen Rockhold will attend today to present on the Annual Performance Report. There is no lunch presentation scheduled.

The information item on the summary of public comment on the rules and procedures for approval of transition coordinators is not ready to be presented. It will be moved to the February agenda as an information item. The SEAC Bylaws will be moved from an action item to an information item.

State Department Report

Jacquelyn Thompson suggested that David Brock provide a status update on the Department of Education's efforts to examine the latest IDEA Reauthorization. Fran Loose mentioned that the new IDEA alters the SEAC membership. The new legislation also designates that a parent of a person with disabilities must be someone whose child is 26 or younger in order to count as a defined member. The same committee that worked on revising the bylaws, if they are willing, could examine and update the rotation of defined membership chart in light of the new IDEA for 2005-06.

David Brock reported that the vision and principles document drafted by the Universal Education Referent Group and the SEAC's document on the impact of No Child Left Behind on students with disabilities will go before the Board of Education at the January meeting. One ISD plan will also be presented. The document developed by the Seclusion and Restraint Referent Group did not go before the Board in December. Instead, it will go out for a 60-day field review period and then go to the Board.

Subcommittee Reports

Steve Schwartz reported that the School Age Subcommittee prepared for the affiliation grid activity that will be completed in today's committee of the whole. Today's activity will be a test run to prepare and perfect the system so it is ready for the 2005 fall retreat.

Elaine High reported that the Secondary Transition Subcommittee last month heard a report on the progress toward the implementation of strategic directives developed by the Secondary Transition Design for Results Team.

Ric Hogerheide reported that the General Supervision Subcommittee prepared the recommendation for the IEP Addendum to go before the committee of the whole at today's meeting. In addition, they are assembling concerns to pass on to the soon-to-be formed parent referent group.

Future Agenda Development

Sandi Laham presented a draft of an annotated agenda for consideration in future agenda writing. The Executive Committee approved and will put it in the practice with next month's agenda.

Other Issues

The 2005 fall retreat will be held on September 18 and 19. The Executive Committee would prefer to hold it at Winding Brook Conference Center.